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\$1.50 incl. GST

Publications mail agreement # 40063862

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Total 36 pages

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**21**

**CENTURY 21**

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2016

# COVID-19 case from community contact

JENN WATT

Editor

A man in his 90s who had no recent history of travel or contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 was the first person in Haliburton County to test positive for the coronavirus.

The man is recovering after arriving at the Haliburton hospital by ambulance on March 30 presenting with abdominal pain, according to the local health unit. He was later diagnosed with pneumonia and received a positive test result for COVID-19 on April 1.

Since that time, a second person has tested positive for the virus.

Dr. Norm Bottum, a member of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, said it's important to note the first case of coronavirus was spread through community contact and was not travel-related.

"The gentleman who was admitted was a community contact. He wasn't travelling out of country, so that's important for people to know because I had always assumed that our first case would be somebody coming back from Florida or Cuba or something like that and it turned out to be somebody who had

see HHHS page 3



## First responders thank frontline workers

Health-care workers stand applauding outside the Haliburton hospital as more than a dozen emergency vehicles representing the OPP, the Haliburton County Emergency Medical Services and the Haliburton Fire Department rolled by showing gratitude for frontline workers on Monday, April 6. Several members of the public also came out to applaud the workers. Organizers told the Echo the emergency vehicles also visited the town's grocery stores to thank their staff. /DARREN LUM Staff



# Son mourns father who died in Pinecrest outbreak

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Kevin DesRoches's dad, Elmer, moved into Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon in May 2018.

"Dad loved it there," Kevin told the Echo. "He made friends quickly and the nurses doted [on] him. He looked forward each week to going to the Legion for his pint of beer and chat with the patrons."

Elmer was the father of four, an extrovert and a born salesman, with a loyalty to the Royal Canadian Legion in honour

of his brother, who died in the Second World War. "His ability to make friends and his love of helping people," were what Kevin loved most about him.

"He made a lot of friends here in town," said Kevin, speaking of when Elmer lived with him for 10 months prior to moving

see 'I page 4

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# COVID-19 Coronavirus

## Highlands Summer Festival season cancelled

One of Haliburton County's most popular summer attractions, the Highlands Summer Festival, announced on Monday it had to cancel its 2020 season due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Although the opening day isn't until June 29, preparations such as rehearsals, set design and costume creation would need to begin now, said Brian Kipping, the president of the festival's board of directors, in a press release.

"The decision was taken after much deliberation and consideration of the options available to us," he said. "But in the end, the welfare of patrons, cast, crew and volunteers was uppermost in our minds in taking this course of action."

This year's festival was to feature *The Sound of Music*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Lucien*, and *Across the Pond*.

"We were deeply committed to the 2020 season – the festival's creative team has been working since last August to put it together. Performance rights have been purchased, we have beautiful set designs, and three wonderful casts were ready to begin work," artistic producer Scot Denton said.

It is hoped the festival will be able to stage the same line-up for the 2021 season, but organizers will need to confirm availability of performance rights. Ticket dates will need to be adjusted.

Those with tickets and passes are being told they can do one of three things: donate the cost of the ticket and receive a tax receipt; roll the ticket purchase to the 2021 season; or receive a refund for the ticket.

"As a charitable theatre company the Highlands Summer Festival relies on the support of our patrons, both in donations and ticket sales to carry the season financially," Kipping said. "We have already incurred expenses related to the 2020 season, will have more as we wind down for this year and when preparations begin for the 2021 season."

Kipping thanked the community for its support on behalf of the board.

"We share everyone's disappointment that the 2020 season will not happen as planned, but we look forward to seeing you at the theatre in 2021."

Staff

## Folk society to live-stream concerts starting April 11

Those looking for a virtual "night out," when we all have to stay in will be interested in checking out the Haliburton County Folk Society's live-stream concert series, set to feature Albert Saxby and Cassidy Taylor in two concerts this month.

The folk society has postponed and cancelled its other activities due to concern about the potential spread of COVID-19, so it will be live-streaming four concerts, starting on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. on its Facebook page.

"We had a very successful dry run of this concept last week with the support of Canoe FM Radio Hall," a press release from the folk society says. "The performers were our own Nick & Benton (Nick Russell and Benton Brown). This concert helped us work out many of the issues associated with presenting a quality live-streaming concert."

More than 200 devices connected to the live event, demonstrating to organizers there is demand.

All concerts will be free, but will include a donation component for those who want to offer the artist a tip.

Schedule: April 11 at 7:30 p.m.: Albert Saxby; April 25 at 7:30 p.m.: Cassidy Taylor.

Staff

## Financial relief for artists, students

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Relief programs are offering financial assistance to visual artists and Fleming College students amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands wants local visual artists to know they may be eligible for funding to assist with living and health costs, and some associated with their art practices. The Artist Relief Fund, offered through CANVAS: A Foundation for Artists, will provide financial assistance for food; rent or mortgage payments; utilities; home care; telephone bills; emergency medical care; emergency dental care; psychological services; and some exceptional circumstances, those to be determined by a review committee. The CANVAS Artist Relief Fund committee will review all applications, and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

"The review process takes up to two weeks, depending upon the nature of the request," reads a release from CANVAS. "Funds for food or homelessness prevention may be provided sooner if deemed necessary by the committee. It is therefore important that applications be as complete and thorough as possible. Applicants will be contacted by telephone or mail when the committee has come to a decision."

In order to be eligible for the program, applicants must be professional visual artists living in Ontario who have attempted to earn at least a portion of their income from their art within the last year. Also, anyone who's received assistance from the Artist Relief Fund in the past year may be ineligible for funding.

The maximum amount for assistance is \$1,000.

"The amount and type of assistance provided depends on the committee's assessment and the particular circumstances of each application," the release reads. "Not every applicant will be guaranteed funding; each application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Successful applicants will not necessarily receive a cheque; in some instances the fund will purchase gift certificates for groceries, pay medical or dental providers directly, purchase transit tickets and passes or pay utility companies directly."

Applicants will be required to provide resumes, and may also be asked to provide copies of bills, medical invoices and assessments, landlord information, etc.

Expenses that are not eligible under the program include taxes; legal fees; credit card bills; studio rent; exhibition expenses; art supplies; loans; child support payments; education expenses; marketing expenses; cable bills; accounting fees; long-distance charges; art insurance; storage fees; framing; or internet bills.

Application forms can be filled out at <http://www.canvasfoundation.ca/artist-relief-fund>

[canvasfoundation.ca/artist-relief-fund](http://www.canvasfoundation.ca/artist-relief-fund)

Fleming College, which has a campus in Haliburton, has created a COVID-19 Emergency Fund to provide financial assistance to students who may require it in the wake of the outbreak. The fund will provide money to students who need to transport themselves home; to rent or purchase laptops or other equipment to facilitate remote learning; to pay for high-speed internet; or to feed themselves or pay rent if they have become unemployed as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

"All grant decisions from this fund will be made by Fleming's senior leadership team, who are at the front lines of this emergency and can best evaluate how to distribute funds to students in urgent need," a release from the college reads.

The fund is paid for by donors, and anyone wishing to make a donation is asked to visit <https://flamingcollege.ca/giving-to-fleming/covid-19-fleming-emergency-fund>, where more information about the fund and its application process are also available.

## School at home

Students at Trillium Lakelands District School Board join the rest of the province in beginning a learning at home program, with course content delivered using alternate means. The sign outside the high school reminds students of the tentative return date of May 4. /DARREN LUM Staff



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# COVID-19 Coronavirus

## HHS prepares space for COVID-19 patients

from page 1

contact through community contacts so that's really important to know because it's out there and you have to be careful in every environment," he said.

He said personal contacts of the man with COVID-19 had been tested at the recommendation of the admitting doctor.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has been preparing for weeks to accommodate patients with the coronavirus.

"What we've been doing over the last two weeks in preparation, is to try not to admit patients to the hospital, move

patients that were waiting for long-term care to long-term care facilities," Dr. Botum said, "so the Ministry of Health has helped us [because] typically people who are in hospital waiting for long-term care are not deemed high priority. Deeming them high priority to open up the space they jump to the top of the list, it's allowed us to open up our acute care."

As of Friday, only three patients were still in acute care and the doctor said one was anticipated to be leaving shortly, freeing up most of the 15 beds in the Haliburton hospital.

On Tuesday of last week, a COVID-19

assessment centre was set up in the parking lot of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre on Gelert Road, receiving patients by appointment only. During the four days it was open last week, 34 patients were seen with most of those people being tested for the coronavirus. Several of those tests are still awaiting results.

You do not need to be a patient at the medical centre, but you do first need to complete the online self-assessment at Ontario.ca/coronavirus and, if prompted by the self-assessment, call 705-457-1212 (and press six) to book an appointment.

## Province restricts outdoor fires in region

All outdoor fires in the province's "fire region" have been restricted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as of April 3.

According to a press release from the MNRF, those who live in the "restricted fire zone," which includes Haliburton County, cannot have fires outside: "this includes burning of grass, debris and campfires, even when using an outdoor fire grate, fireplace or fire pit."

"During this very challenging time when we are fighting the spread of the [COVID-19] virus, our number one priority is the health and safety of the people of Ontario," said John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. "We are putting these important preventative measures in place now to ensure that our emergency responders are able to focus their efforts where they are needed most."

**County Life Magazine is out!**  
Watch for the magazine available for free on newsstands, in curbside boxes and in some editions of County Life newspaper starting this week.

## HHS Community Programs launches HaliburtonCares.ca

Haliburton Highlands Health Services – Community Programs has launched a new website to provide all residents of Haliburton County with up-to-date information and resources during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The site, HaliburtonCares.ca, includes information about:

- What Haliburton County residents should do if they are feeling unwell
- How residents can continue to access regular health care
- Support available in the community, including:

- o Access to free and low-cost food
- o How the Community Support Ser-

vices Response Team can help anyone in need, with services like grocery and prescription pick-up and home delivery

o How residents can access other local support services who are still operating but may have changed their normal hours or procedures

- A wide range of mental health supports, including immediate crisis support phone and text lines as well as dedicated resources for local health care workers

- How residents can help the COVID-19 response effort by volunteering their time and donating personal protective equipment (PPE)

The site also includes a form that Hal-

iburton County residents can complete and send a message of thanks to the many health care, first responders, community support workers, and volunteers who are working tirelessly to keep the Haliburton Highlands safe.

"HaliburtonCares.ca would not have been possible without the hard work of the local team at TechnicalitiesPlus, who built the site, as well as local service providers who shared ideas and content," said Stephanie MacLaren, vice-president of Community Programs at HHS. "We are grateful for this team effort and hope that the site will be of value to our community."

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# 'I hope no one ever has to deal with this'

from page 1

to Pinecrest. "He liked to go to McKeck's or to the Maple Ave. for a pint at lunchtime, so he made a lot of friends here. In fact, one day he got disoriented and he was in the bank and one of the tellers walked him all the way home. You don't get that in big cities. People looked out for him because they knew he was my dad."

About three weeks ago, the 87-year-old man was feeling unwell, at the same time that Pinecrest Nursing Home announced an outbreak of COVID-19 in the facility.

"I thought he would get over it," said Kevin. "But as time went on he got worse, then better, then worse even more. It weakened him to the point of [being] non-responsive, fever, not eating or drinking," adding later, "It was a rollercoaster ride. He had his good days and then the next day would be twice as bad as it was before. It was terrible, and the worst part was that I couldn't be there to hold his hand and comfort him, and that sucked."

Visits to long-term care homes across the province are restricted during the COVID-19 outbreak.

On April 1 at 8 p.m., a nurse from the home called Kevin to ask him to come and say goodbye.

"They wheeled his bed over close to the window and woke him up, and he gave me a little bit of a smile and he gave my son a wink and then he went back to sleep. And that was the last time I saw him alive," said Kevin.

Elmer died on the afternoon of April 3, and though he was not tested for COVID-19, his death certificate notes the virus as the cause of death. One of his best friends, who was born a year apart from Elmer, came from the same small town in Prince Edward Island and was a fellow resident at Pinecrest Nursing Home had died that morning.

"I hope no one ever has to deal with this," said Kevin.

Pinecrest Nursing Home, a 65-bed long-

term care facility, has been the site of the largest outbreak in Ontario since mid-March. To date, 26 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported at the facility, as well as the death of a spouse of a resident.

"This is truly a horrible time for the families and friends of the residents, as well as our staff," said Mary Carr, administrator of Pinecrest Nursing Home, in a March 26 press release. "We have a number of medically fragile and vulnerable people living in our home; our residents are like family to our staff. Our sympathies go out to all of the families and friends of the people we have lost."

At press time, 4,347 confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported in Ontario, with 132 deaths and 1,624 cases resolved. Two cases have been confirmed in Haliburton County.



Kevin DesRoches is mourning the death of his father, Elmer, who died April 3 of COVID-19 during the Pinecrest Nursing Home outbreak in Bobcaygeon. Kevin, seen here in happier days with his son Jordan and Elmer, said a celebration of life will have to wait until provincial restrictions on gatherings have lifted. Elmer was one of 26 people who have died so far as a result of COVID-19 at the nursing home. / Submitted photos



## Lake associations donate thousands to food banks

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Local lake associations are donating thousands of dollars to Haliburton County's food banks amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and those who've donated are challenging other associations to do the same.

Food banks are experiencing increased demand amid the ongoing pandemic as many county residents are laid off from

work, with demand up about 20 per cent so far.

The South Lake Association of Cottagers and Residents donated \$1,000 to the Minden Community Food Bank and is challenging lake associations throughout the county to follow suit.

"They asked me to issue a challenge to the rest of the lake associations," Paul MacInnes, chairman of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations, told the *Echo*. "Within 12 hours, [the food bank] got another \$1,000 donation."

As MacInnes was on the phone with the newspaper, he got an email from a lake association in Highlands East announcing it was donating \$300 to the food bank in Wilberforce. The Redstone Lake Cottagers' Association has donated \$1,500 to SIRCH Community Services as it increases the number of frozen meals it is providing in the community.

The Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners' Association has a \$500 cheque on the way to the food bank in Minden, and president Murray Adam

told the paper he expected an additional \$200 or so to be donated by members of the association's executive. MBC is also challenging other lake associations to donate.

"We're grateful for what the lake associations are doing to help us," said Joanne Barnes, manager of the Minden Community Food Bank. "We welcome anybody who's lost their job to come here. We are here to help. There is no shame in coming here for help."









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## points of view



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*Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir*

## Information, please

**W**E NOW KNOW for sure that the coronavirus is present in the Haliburton County community. For weeks, we have watched as our neighbouring towns reported cases, but it wasn't until Wednesday afternoon that we had confirmation that the virus was also within the boundaries of our community.

We send well wishes to the man who was diagnosed with COVID-19, who is recovering at home and our thanks go out to the medical community that is helping him and working to test his contacts to see who else may need to take steps to protect themselves and others.

It's important that we know local statistics as quickly as possible because it helps make real what has up until now been an abstract threat. It is one thing to read about the coronavirus elsewhere, it is something altogether different to know it is affecting those we know personally.

Last week, local health-care providers opened a COVID-19 assessment centre outside the medical centre in Haliburton and so far have seen more than 30 people. Test swabs have been administered for most of those people.

On Monday, we learned a second person has tested positive for the virus.

It's important that numbers continue to be provided to the community in a timely fashion. Numbers can help us understand where more cases might be found, who should be strictly self-isolating, and what measures should be taken to further divide people physically to

limit the spread.

Premier Doug Ford's decision last week to release projections for infections and deaths in Ontario is a case in point. By staying the course, modelling suggests 1,600 people could die in our province by the end of April. I personally know several people who have changed their behaviour directly as a response to that data, becoming even more diligent about staying away from others.

Although the health unit's website has been carrying some statistics for the region, timely information has been released slowly – likely because of the sheer volume of cases and associated work. Perhaps locally Haliburton Highlands Health Services could take over that role, updating a tally online so we have a better sense of where we stand as a community and what our health-care workers are dealing with.

The HHHS team has already done an admirable job in a short period of time on Haliburtoncares.ca, which features clear, useful information on the coronavirus and local testing as well as community resources such as food delivery assistance and mental health supports.

Now that COVID-19 has been confirmed in our community, fast and reliable information is more important than ever. We will need authorities to disclose as much information as quickly as possible so we as citizens can better do our part to lessen the spread of the virus.



jenn watt

## Editorial



Back home

by Darren Lum

## Carrots in the sand

**M**Y MOM IS 86 and my dad is 91. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in January and they live in the same house they bought 60 years ago. They are tough British ducks, those two. Stay calm and carry on is their philosophy in life. I hear it in their voices every day when I call them to see how they are doing.

For years I have always kind of laughed about how much food my mom stores in her house. Her fridge, two freezers and cold storage room are always fully stocked. She buys carrots every fall and puts them in pails of sand and stores them for use over the winter. She freezes fruit from one summer to use for the year until the following summer. She has an abundance of gin, tonic, scotch and other drinks in case people visit. And of course she has a good staple of canned goods. She never wastes anything and always cooks full home-made meals.

I've always known that her preparedness is related to her living through the Second World War where she had very little and watched her parents ration and share with their neighbours. I know my mom has lived her life being prepared in case of an emergency. And so now I am in awe of their ability to be self reliant. As we start Week 4 of our social distancing, my parents are strong. My mom is baking pies with her stored fruit from the freezer! She is making her granola with the maple syrup she has on her shelves. And on it goes. She is positive and completely confident that we will all get through this challenging time. She and my

dad haven't left their house in four weeks, and you might remember that my mom works full time and her boss had to kick her out of work midway through the first week of isolating.

Although it was hard for her to accept that she couldn't work, she knew it was the right thing to do. I was sure my mom would go crazy being at home full time, but she once again surprised me with her acceptance of the situation and her willingness to make the best out of it.

It is such a gift to my sister who lives in Vancouver and worries about them and wishes she was closer, and to me who is hunkered in Haliburton.

My parents have incredible neighbours and friends who get their fresh produce and other things they need and for that I am forever grateful. It takes every one of us doing what we can in little parts of

the world to get through this virus. We all need to have confidence and faith in our health care, our government and in each other. This too shall pass.

On a closing note, the Haliburton County Folk Society is offering another night of music for you in the comfort of your own living room. This is guaranteed to brighten your spirits! The HCFS is developing a live-streamed concert series featuring local musicians. Two of the expected four concerts are scheduled for April 11 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. and will be live-streamed from the Canoe FM Radio Hall on the Haliburton County Folk Society Facebook page. April 11 features Albert Saxby while April 25 features Cassidy Taylor.

Tales from  
the great



lynda shadbolt

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# points of view

## There and back again

I THINK IT IS fair to say that we are living in interesting times. That is why I have started to record the important events in my life in a journal that will one day be the basis of a book called *There and Back Again: An Unprotected Journey*. Here is an excerpt from Sunday.

9:00 a.m.: I am running dangerously short on Netflix supplies and popcorn and have come to the startling realization that I'm all caught up on *Westworld*.

9:05 a.m.: I look at Jenn and announce, "Dark days have overtaken us and the time of men is at hand. Therefore, we must make haste and journey to the West to make our weekly dump run. Our very existence depends on it."

9:06 a.m.: Jenn looks at me and replies, "What do you mean by we?"

9:07 a.m.: I explain to her that, since we have nothing to do, we could form a fellowship – after all, people already say I bear an uncanny resemblance to a hobbit.

9:08 a.m.: Jenn replies that while a dump run is something that we – and by that she means me – definitely need to do, it is also a foray into the greater world, filled with adventure, hardship and potential danger.

Which is why, she says, she would prefer to accompany me in spirit only, since someone needs to stay home to take care of the pets and remember this epic journey, should things take a bad turn.

9:09 a.m.: "So I'm on my own?" I ask. "Yes," she replies, as she hands me a bag filled with kitchen garbage. Then she reaches in her purse and hands me a talisman.

"This is the Maglight of my father," she says. "Let it light your way, should darkness overtake you."

You lose track of time at the

dump just once...

9:20 a.m.: With the garbage and recyclables loaded into the back of my trusty steed, I hit the gas and yell "Chevy Trax, show me the meaning of haste!" Then I accelerate from the place I drive off towards what could be the adventure of a lifetime.

9:24 a.m.: After a long and arduous journey, I arrive at the distant land. To get there, I have braved several traffic lights, slowed down for a mysterious squirrel, and passed fellow travellers sometimes as near as 10 feet. After enduring all this hardship and danger, I reach the borders of a strange and mysterious kingdom known in the ancient tongue as Municipal Landfill, which the common folk refer to as Bag End.

9:25 a.m.: Once there, my way is barred by the gatekeeper and I face the first of many tests on this adventure. I then remember the magical red card, forged by the Wizards of the Municipal Office and I wave it to him.

He steps aside and allows me safe passage.

9:26 a.m.: I now face a second test, far more perilous than the first – the dance of recyclers. Deftly, I sort my recyclables while remaining at least six feet from other intrepid adventurers.

9:27 a.m.: I drive on to the last and most treacherous part of the quest. I recall lore that says household waste can only be destroyed at the top of what I am calling, for the purposes of creating some excitement, Mount Doom. I drive there and then, though I am weary from my quest and embarrassed from accidentally breaking into the Chicken Dance at the last test, heroically throw our household waste into the ancient bins.

9:38 a.m.: After using a magic potion called Purell, I return heroically to the Shire, which is what I am calling our home until all this is over. Jenn and the pets seem caught off guard.

9:40 a.m.: "Did you not expect my return?"

"Of course, I did," Jenn says. "Why would you say that?"

I point out that she is in the process of affixing price tags to my fishing gear.

9:42 a.m.: I begin to write my adventures. Jenn suppresses her adulation and asks if I remembered to get the mail...



steve  
galea

## Loon Tales



## pic of the past

When Beau Bird was going through his late mother's photo albums, he came across this photo of a funeral procession at the corner of Pine Avenue and Victoria Street in Haliburton. He gave the photo to Joe Iles, who originally brought it in to the *Echo* in 2008. The photo is thought to have been taken before 1924 because the school in the background is the old pre-brick structure. The drivers may have been Russell Johnson and George Keefer, who worked for funeral home owner W.R. Curry. It is not known whose funeral it was.

## letters to the editor

## Mixed messages

To the Editor,

I don't get it.

A television ad sponsored by the Canadian government begins with a scene of young people gathering and an offer by one person to another of sharing in a vaping opportunity. The ad continues saying "consider the consequences of vaping."

It then lists: nicotine addiction, altered teen brain development, harmful chemicals, lung damage and long term health effects.

If these are the effects then why is vaping par-

aphernalia an allowed product? Government allows it and then spend dollars on saying it's really, really bad for you (and some of the certain badness is not yet measured) so don't do it.

Would it not be best to not allow the product in the first place?

I am very confused, but then, I have a simple mind.

David M. Bishop  
Haliburton

## Clean up after your dog

To the Editor,

I'm a self-isolating senior, in a small apartment with a large backyard that I am unable to use to get my fresh air and exercise due to the many months' worth of fecal dog waste from another tenant.

I want to say "shame on you" to any dog owner who does not have regard for others and refuses to clean up after their dogs, leaving the waste to

pile up, not only attracting flies, encouraging even more disease and making it impossible for others to enjoy the outdoors.

Hoping for a positive result as this cannot be allowed to go on, it's a major health hazard to allow this.

Donna Criece  
Haliburton



This pileated woodpecker brings a shot of colour to the spring forest. /Photo submitted by Belinda Gallagher



# Kicking up your heels goes digital

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

As coronavirus-related cancellations and closures continue to be announced, Haliburton County students are popping, spinning, and en pointe in their living rooms as they receive instruction through the internet.

The Heritage Ballet and Haliburton Dance Academy dance studios are facilitating online lessons through apps such as Zoom.

Haliburton Dance Academy owner Chyna Schell said she has been happy with the response and the community that has been formed online.

"Everyone's level of gratitude has just been incredible. Like we're just so blown away by how people are tuning in and sending us messages on every [social media] platform and emails and text messages, saying how great it's been for their dancer to have this piece of normality and the response has been just beyond what we ever thought," she said.

The expectation was that her regular dance students would tune in when they could.

"It's turned into this county-wide thing where all these dancers are tuning in and little ones are tuning in to the advanced classes and watching the big kids. It's been really incredible actually," she said.

The idea to go online came through networking with dance studio owners and dance organizations through-

out Ontario.

"As dance studio owners we want what is best for our kids. What's best for our kids right now is routine and any sense of the things that they're used to and the things that make them them and I can't even begin to imagine what it must feel like to be five or 10 or 15 and going through all the emotions that they must be going through," she said.

Many children and youth must be struggling to understand what is happening, she said, and likely are learning about the health crisis from other people. Providing dance lessons adds normalcy to people's lives.

Schell said she had not offered any of her classes online in her eight years of owning the studio, but there had been discussion in the past about putting classes online for parents and loved ones to be able to watch.

Schell and her other instructors lead the sessions from their homes, which sets a good example for others to follow to stay at home to stay safe.

One positive from this, she said, was that she could expand her service to include adults. Their home would be ideal for a sense of security and comfort, giving them confidence to come to the studio.

"We could do a taste of a no-commitment program where we do kind of three or four classes a month where you can jump on for free and just try it out," she said.

Julie Barban of Heritage Ballet is also providing instruction online and said the reaction from her younger students and their parents has been good, but with teens it's been difficult to get them to participate.

Barban said she started to offer online classes on March 23 and has had 23 classes.

"Classes are for students and parents as I have some exercise classes as well. I really am just trying to offer them something to justify the fees they have paid or will be paying," she wrote in an email.

Even though she has made conscious decision to not use her studio, she still has to pay rent.

She's used her mobile phone to record her teaching and other than handling and positioning the phone, there hasn't been much difficulty on her end, though if there's a poor wifi connection at a student's house, that could create some freezing.

"It's been a learning process for me! But it has been fun. I am getting better with the app thing! We are now using two, Band and Zoom," she wrote. "I am afraid it

may go on longer than I would have thought but I feel I am getting a handle on it!"

With her teaching and a few student teachers, classes are being taught from either their residences or from the Living Libations location where Barban also works.

Barban said there have been pros and cons teaching online.

"Advantage for my students who are teaching is that as they are already at home, they can offer their classes anytime during the day whereas I am still doing mine after my shift at Libations. Online classes have been interesting as I am feeling I am doing more, meaning there isn't the distraction of kids chatting to each other! Disadvantage is we aren't there to correct properly, to have the proper space as well," she wrote.

Barban has considered online teaching after the restrictions for social gathering are lifted, but needs to take into account the costs of the physical space she pays for.

Schell has never experienced anything like this, but recognizes there is some comfort in knowing no one else in the business community has either.

"There isn't a single person on the earth that isn't being affected by this so we might as well make it work and support each other," she said.

“

*There isn't a single person on the earth that isn't being affected by this so we might as well make it work and support each other.*

— Chyna Schell

## Free ebook to help kids understand COVID-19

Marie Gage and Audrey Ramsay have just released a free ebook that is aimed at helping young children cope with the COVID-19 situation.

Our world is a strange place to navigate these days and Gage got thinking that it must be very difficult for young children to comprehend. She wanted to do something to make it easier, something that would empower children to be a part of the solution while at the same time help them to understand that this is temporary. The underlying message is that a new, brighter day, with more of our usual freedoms, will come again if we all stick together.

To this end they have created a free ebook for you to download and read to your child. Children are encouraged to draw a picture of the new superhero, the Germ Defier, or to make a costume for themselves and take a photo. These can be uploaded to the Author Marie Gage Facebook page in the comments of the posting. Each participating child will then receive a free copy of *Blake's Monkey Adventure* in ebook format as a thank you.

The free ebook can be accessed either through the Author Marie Gage Facebook page or the Author Marie Gage website:

<https://mariegage.ca/the-germ-defiers-a-new-superhero-team>

Gage and Ramsay are hoping that everyone will share the link with their friends and family.

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# Families stay close through window visits

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

A photo shared online by Extendicare last week freezes a moment in time for Janice Benoit and her dad Jim Nesbitt, and captures love in the time of COVID-19, when families are separated from each other to prevent the spread of the contagious virus.

Nesbitt is in his room at Extendicare in Haliburton, extending his arm out so that his hand touches the same place on the window that Benoit's does, though she is on the outside of his room – outside the building, on the other side of the glass – with one gloved hand holding a phone to speak with him.

"Didn't they do a beautiful job, they captured a moment and an emotion," said Benoit, of the photo taken by Brittney Graham, who works as an activity aide at the long-term care centre.

Nesbitt has lived at Extendicare since June, just a short walk away from Benoit who was able to have one last physical visit with him prior to the closure of long-term care homes to visitors.

"I felt very, very glad, and very, very safe for him," she said. "I was very, very glad that that's what they were going to do, because then I knew he had the best chance he was going to have."

Benoit said her dad is 93. "It's hard on Dad though because he doesn't have that connection to me," said Benoit. "So, I can go every day, if I want. I did see him a lot, and then when the lockdown happened I wasn't sure how we were going to handle that."

Benoit said the home's activity director offered video chats through Facebook Messenger, making it easy for families to connect even if afar. Benoit found though that the technology was proving to be frustrating for her dad, and wondered if a visit through his window might help both communicate in person, though apart.

"When I called the staff, they were just so welcoming," said Benoit, and so she walked to her dad's window, and calling him on the phone was able to have a face-to-face chat.

"I asked him, 'do you want to come closer and put your hand up on the window, Dad?' And so he did. I told him that I loved him and he told me that he loved me, so it was like, that's what we do. I wanted to cry. It was joy, and gratitude that someone was able to let me connect once more with my dad."

Those with family and friends at long-term care facilities

“

*I wanted to cry. It was joy, and gratitude that someone was able to let me connect once more with my dad.*

— Janice Benoit



Karen Reid visits dad Herb Debes, at Highland Wood, through his bedroom window to connect while keeping physically apart. /Submitted by Karen Reid

ties are used to possible respiratory infection outbreaks, which happen about once a year, when volunteers do not come in and it is recommended that families don't. The COVID-19 outbreak means that only staff can enter, and they first have their temperature taken as well as answer screening questions related to symptoms of infection.

Despite family not being able to come in though, activity aide Kayla Bird said staff is doing what they can to accommodate valued communication.

"We have had the odd Facetime conversation before with residents and their families but never to this extent, sometimes we have six calls in one day," said Bird. "The residents absolutely love it. It's hard on them not seeing their family so they enjoy the technology allowing them to do that."

At Hyland Crest in Minden and Highland Wood in Haliburton, Stephanie MacLaren, VP, community programs – communication lead for Haliburton Highlands Health Services said steps are being taken to "ensure families of residents can better connect virtually to their loved ones, and our staff are increasing social recreation programming for residents."

New smartphones have been purchased so residents can videoconference with their families, a new schedule for residents has been created with more activities and exercises, and a single point of contact for families has been designated to answer any questions they may have.

Karen Reid's dad Herb Debes lives at Highland Wood, and his family makes regular visits to him.

"He's kind, he's funny, he doesn't complain, ever, the



Jim Nesbitt connects with daughter Janice Benoit through glass at Extendicare in Haliburton. /Photo by Brittney Graham

nurses love him, he's a super easy guy to get along with," said Reid, who said she's lucky he's her dad.

Reid said her dad understands the pandemic is occurring, and the implications of the virus, but still wants to be close with his family.

"When he sees us, he wants us to come in," said Reid. "It's really tragic that they're the first ones in society that get locked out of their families – locked in, actually."

When long-term care homes were closed to visitors, Reid said she and her family didn't hesitate.

"Right away, we went to the window, right away," said Reid, who said her mom visits her dad every day, writing him "little love letters."

The family has taped up a large bag on his window that acts as a note depository.

"Once a week the nurses go grab it and read all of our notes to him," said Reid. "We just keep him abreast of what's happening in the family, and with pictures and things like that."

Though the family has connected with Skype, Reid said the window meetings remain meaningful.

"It just gives him something else to look at," said Reid. "I know he sits at the window waiting for someone to show up."

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Maggie James, left, comforts her daughter, three-year-old Ana while five-year-old son Tupper directs questions about the maple syrup to his father Garrett in the sugar shack at Cossette's Maple Syrup in Haliburton. Started in 1987 by Rene Cossette, Cossette's will continue with the James family, who are beef, pork and chicken farmers looking to expand their production. / DARREN LUM Staff

# COVID-19 can't stop maple syrup production

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

It takes 40 litres of sap to make one litre of syrup and the ideal conditions for high yields is cold nights and warm days. Haliburton County has seen its fair share of such weather and area producers have been the beneficiaries of strong sap flow.

Seeing the snow on their property is a good sign for producers. Once it melts the season is pretty much finished, as trees begin to show buds.

In Minden, Neil Campbell of Sapsucker Ridge described maple syrup production as being "like playing the lottery."

After close to two decades, he is finishing his last year of maple syrup production, using the old school method of collecting with 196 buckets.

He was expecting to finish with 221 litres of syrup or a little more than a litre per bucket and considered this the third consecutive "pretty good year" for his pre-sold Brown Dog Pure Maple Syrup.

"Getting that much syrup from 196 taps is more a matter of good luck than good management. This would give me the third good year in a row after some struggles during the 18 years I have been making syrup. ... this will be the last year for Brown Dog; it'll be good to leave on a sweet note if it turns out that way," he wrote in a message to his customers.

The reason Campbell is hanging up his spigot is he'll be turning 77 this April and said he decided two years ago he couldn't cut wood for his rustic home in the woods and for his evaporator anymore.

North on Highway 35, retired couple Rick and Wendy Wood were expecting a good year after experiencing a "big run" of 3,000 litres of sap collected in the first few weeks at their Colour of Wood property.

This year they were seeing greater efficiency harvesting syrup by employing a reverse osmosis system, which

draws water from the sap they collect from their 705 taps via lines. Taking water out from the sap means less boiling so less wood is needed. The only downside, Rick said, is the four-hour cleanup of the system after each use.

At their hilly property, the two tanks of sap outside the sugar shack have a definitive difference.

The tank collecting the south-facing trees usually contains double the volume as the north.

Rick said this is owed to the greater sun exposure, which brings more warmth and helps the sap flow from the trees and through the lines. He's hopeful this year's yield will be 800 litres of syrup, which is a little more than a litre per tap.

Over in West Guilford, Wayne Krangle said he is seeing a 15 per cent increase from his average yield of the past 10 years. Krangle has 260 trees tapped and produces his Syrup for Soldiers to benefit the Wounded Warriors fund, which supports Canadian soldiers and their families and emergency personnel dealing with mental health issues such as PTSD.

At Cossette's Maple Syrup in Haliburton, a new family is taking the reins for the first time this year.

Owned and operated by the young farming family of Garrett and Maggie James, both 27-years-old, son Tupper, 5, and daughter Ana, 3.

This is their second year of operation, but their first on their own after completing the transition phase with former owners Rene and Carole Cossette, who started the operation in 1987.

"This is just another avenue to be self-sustaining and make a little more money. We like it. We like anything outdoors," Maggie said.

Her husband, she said, started making syrup as a kid in the Lindsay area, where they both grew up.

Farming for liquid gold is a sweet passion, as everyone in the family loves to eat maple syrup, even if the couple can't agree on amber versus dark.



Five-year-old Tupper James and his father Garrett walk down the road to check the lines at the Cossette's Maple Syrup property in Haliburton.

see page 11





Above, Cossette's Maple Syrup's Garrett James adds wood to keep the sap boiling, as his three-year-old daughter Ana looks on inside the sugar shack.

Right, Maggie James transports wood into Cossette's Maple Syrup sugar shack in Haliburton. The James family is welcoming the opportunity to continue the syrup business, which was started in 1987.



## Boredom's impossible when you're making syrup

from page 10

Garrett helped Rene for the past several years before completing the transition this year. Rene is originally from Quebec, where they produce the most maple syrup in the world.

The family is living on the lower floor of the home on the property, but will be completing their full move from their Loon Lake farm to live and operate a farm on the Hilltop Road property later this year.

Garrett said he expects an above average yield this season from their 1,800 taps.

Although the couple has filtered more sand than other years, they don't mind because they use it to feed their pigs, who love the sweet sediment. (All of those interviewed for this story noticed a much greater volume of sand or nutrients that needed to be filtered from the sap. Some up to 50 per cent more. No one had a theory as to why.)

There is already a plan to continue to expand slowly towards maximizing the maple syrup potential for upwards of 5,000 taps for the 101-acre property. The couple is open to keeping the business going for a long time and have a willing helper in their son, who has demonstrated an aptitude for the work and is well-versed in production practices.

In Wilberforce, Esson Creek Maple's Josh Bramham said "it's been a good year" for the mainly amber coloured syrup he and his family work to produce. He expects this season to be their best of the past four years of operation, which can be in part credited to adding more taps – from 1,730 to 1,984 this year – as well as the ideal weather conditions.

The Bramhams' first tap was on Feb. 6, which was part of a plan to be prepared for their first run of sap. Their first boil was on March 10. His hope is to continue until the end of April at the Essonville Line property.

Although the standard of producing one litre of syrup per tree applied to farms without a vacuum system, he said to truly maximize the return at Esson Creek Maple is to reach 1.5 litres of syrup per tree. This year, they are averaging 1.8 litres per tree. If weather conditions continue for this week, he expects to match what they've averaged so far.

COVID-19 is not affecting their production, but may hurt sales in the coming year.

Bramham said he's concerned about the 15 per cent of sales that won't be made through tours and visits at their shack if they must be closed to the public. Summer sales at farmers' markets could be hampered if social gather-

ing restrictions continue this summer. Commercial sales are an option they've considered, but if other producers do the same there may be more supply than demand and will lower the market price.

Over on Drag Lake, Bill Beatty keeps doing what he has done for 40 years and cannot understand why anybody could be bored while self-isolating.

"I don't know why anybody gets bored with being isolated because all you got to do is go out and gather the sap and bring it in and boil it. Then you get to it, bottle it and label it. So how can you get bored?" he said.

Late last week he was little more than halfway through his season of collection of sap from his 229 taps at Beatty's Sugar Bush, starting his first tap the second week of March.

"As far as we're concerned it's coming along great,"

he said.

Other producers he knows have expressed the same optimism for a strong year.

There hasn't been a large run of sap yet at his property and he didn't have a prediction for the rest of the season, citing the unusual winter weather and Mother Nature. The litre of syrup per tree standard is beyond what he has ever collected. His yield is closer to three-quarters of a litre per tap.

Beatty, who had his daughter help with bottling this year, doesn't have any plans to quit despite slowing down in the bush.

"I keep saying I'm going to quit when I'm 90, but then when I'm 90 I may take a look at it and say, 'let's do it another year,'" he said.



Garrett James points across the property to Cossette's Maple Syrup, which he hopes to grow in the future./DARREN LUM Staff



# Social Distancing will be good for my garden: making more plants

Part three in a series of garden tasks we can complete while practicing social distancing

**L**AST WEEK I mentioned that one benefit of pruning houseplants is the cuttings you can share or use to bulk up your own collection. Here are some tips:

- The most important thing in propagation is using a healthy plant (mother plant) and clean cutting instruments. Knife, scissors or pruners are fine for houseplants since most have soft growth.

- Some plants can be rooted in a jar of water – pothos, Swedish ivy, coleus, baby's tears, and African violets. One

plant that I enjoy outdoors, and bring in for the winter is the papyrus. It's perhaps the easiest to root. You merely snip off a stem, flip it upside down and drop it in a glass of water.



Belinda Gallagher

## Musings

Three weeks later you will have a new plant.

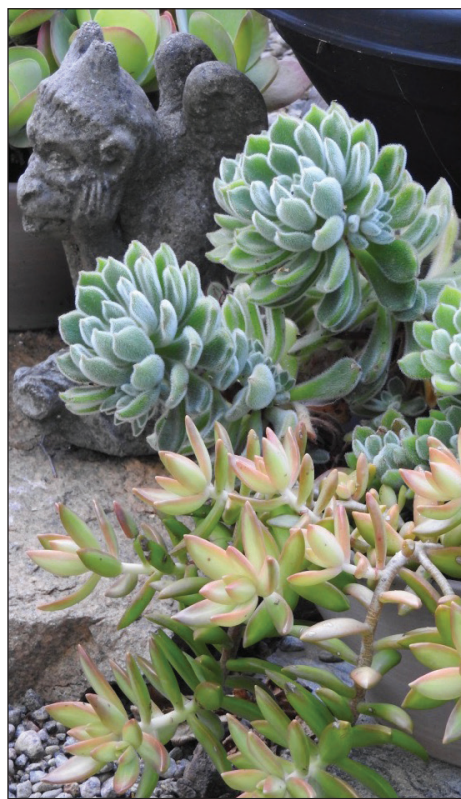
- Begonia stems will root in water, but a more interesting way is to use a leaf. Remove a healthy, firm leaf with about a centimetre of stem. Turn the leaf over and make a very small slice through the prominent veins on the bottom side. Set the leaf right side up on the surface of some moist,



Taking cuttings.

sterilized soil mix in a pot. Place pot in Ziploc bag, close tightly and set on the top of your fridge. Check every few days for signs of new growth (each cut could make a new plant). Once you see little plantlets, open bag and place in bright light (not direct sun). In a few weeks you can repot the plants for your garden or for sharing.

- Many gardeners save annual geraniums from year to year. I trim the leggy stems from the mother plant and root those in water, too. Be sure to use a stem



Escheveria are easy to multiply.

that is not flowering and pull off any of the leaves that will be below the water line. If you don't those leaves will rot and the smell is foul!

- Another easy to multiply plant family is Escheveria. These tender succulents that sort of look like hen and chickens have become very popular in recent years. Propagating new plants is as easy as hacking off a stem, laying it on a shelf or work bench so the cut end can dry and callus over. When you see tiny hair-like roots or when the stem-end has hardened, pot them in either cactus soil or a multi-purpose mix.

Finally, two plants that are fun for children to try are the avocado and the pineapple.

Pineapple – Remove the green top of the pineapple and pull off the lowest leaves with a strong pull. The goal is to have about 1.5 cm of stem exposed. Pop the top into a jar of water just to the



Pineapple (top left), papyrus (top right) and avocado.



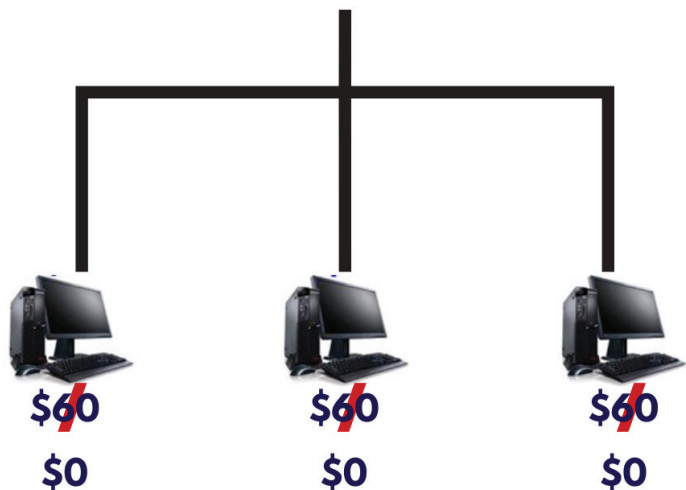
Slicing begonia.

level of the leaves. Be patient. When roots appear, pot the plant into a pot of multi-purpose soil mix.

Avocado – Eat the avocado but save the pit. Wash the pit and then poke three toothpicks or skewers into the pit about halfway between the fat bottom and the pointed tip. The toothpicks form a scaffolding to suspend the pit in a jar or glass of water with only the bottom submerged. In a couple of weeks the pit will split open and a root will emerge from the bottom, and a stem with leaves from the top.

Growing new plants is always a way for us to think forward – something we all need to do right now.

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# COVID-19

## Coronavirus

# 'We are in this together,' municipal leaders say

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

While regular municipal processes including council meetings have been cancelled for the time being amid the COVID-19 pandemic, municipal work continues, moved from the council table to the kitchen table.

"This is my 14th year on council and I've been involved in several emergency planning exercises, but nothing could have prepared anyone for this," Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts told the *Echo* in an email. "There isn't one person in the county or Dysart who is not affected by this. Our main street is a ghost town and the latest news is that construction will come to a grinding halt. This is devastating to the economy in our area, but the health risk is so great that this must be done."

On Friday, the provincial government announced a shortened list of "essential" businesses are permitted to continue to operate amid the ongoing pandemic, including reductions in the kinds of construction projects that are permitted to continue. Premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency in Ontario over COVID-19 on March 17. The County of Haliburton and most of its lower-tier townships have declared their own states of emergency, and local councils have suspended their regular meetings, delegating authority to either a team consisting of their mayors and chief administrative officers, or emergency management groups, to make decisions and sign paperwork to allow the day-to-day operations of the municipalities to continue. Each municipality has an emergency management group – sometimes called an emergency operations centre, or emergency operations group – led by its community emergency manager coordinator, typically the fire chief, and consisting of some members of council and a cross-section of department heads.

"The EOC has been doing a fantastic job, and I've been so impressed with the ingenuity and resilience of our staff to accommodate to the ever-changing landscape of requirements," Roberts wrote. "I am still working a lot and have a nice home office area so that's lucky. There are still lots of things happening at Dysart and so many emails and calls to make. I go in person to our emergency meetings, there are only four of us in the room, the rest are on teleconference."

The province has granted municipal councils permission to hold virtual meetings in times of emergency, and Roberts said the technical logistics of having digital council meetings for Dysart et al are being explored.

"We are hoping to reconvene meetings by the end of May, they will look a lot different, but we still need to meet legislative requirements so we need to figure things out with the IT department and our clerk," she wrote. "We want to be able to have delegations and our meetings must be accessible to the public."

In Highlands East, Mayor Dave Burton also praised the work of municipal staff and members of the municipality's EOC amid a backdrop of continually changing directives from the province and federal government.

"I am proud of our staff and the EOC for the way they are handling this difficult and unfamiliar situation," Burton wrote in an email to the *Echo*. "We are collectively working as a group to come up with solutions and pro-



Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts has been working from her home office during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. / Photo submitted

vide messaging to the public quickly and accurately. I am regularly in contact with my counterparts throughout the county to try and provide consistent messaging. On that note, I maintain contact with our CAO and staff on a daily basis and as often as is required; 24/7 if need be. We all understand that things change on a continual basis and contact with my CAO and staff is as needed. Our CAO and staff have all stepped up and are in contact on a daily basis through our EOC meetings."

Both Burton and Roberts are feeling the stressful effects of the situation, and trying to remain positive.

"As a mayor, these are unsettling times," Burton wrote. "I am a family man myself. Not only am I ... worried about the health and safety of my loved ones but I also need to look out for the well-being of my staff, our most vulnerable, our first responders and the community as a whole; they are our No. 1 priority. These are the times we plan for but hope never happen. The responsibility for implementing safeguards for our community is huge and one I take very seriously. While we are trying to practice 'business as usual,' it has been somewhat challenging but we are trying to maintain business continuity to the public as best we can. I continue to stay positive about this situation and continue to be proactive by implementing procedures for the 'what ifs.' I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our local agencies and volunteer organizations such as the Central Food Network and the Wilberforce Foodland. I am so proud of all their efforts during this crisis to ensure our community continues to have access to the essentials."

Roberts is urging patience among residents, something she admits she herself can have trouble with.

"I've always considered myself a positive, optimistic person, but I'm not always the most patient," she wrote. "I'm a doer and love to have a plan, keep busy and get jobs done. What we all must do now is be patient, listen to the health professionals and stay home. It's a time to be in the moment and let go of the things we have no control over. This will pass eventually and things will get better but no one [knows] how long it will take."

Roberts has been exercising, baking, doing grocery shopping for others and finding gratitude in the small things.

"I encourage people to stay as positive as they can and recognize this is stressful on all of us and we show it in different way and at different times," she wrote. "Don't judge others and find ways to help if you're able to. This is a marathon, not a sprint, so pace yourself."

Burton too encouraged residents to stay positive, and to abide by directives to practice social distancing, self-isolation and sanitization as much as possible.

"Please ensure you are practicing proper physical distancing and disinfection; we need to do all we can to flatten the curve of this virus," he wrote. "Please continue to care for others and look out for one another. We are in this together and together we will persevere."

Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen also strongly encouraged residents to abide by these directives.

"It is frustrating to see that some people, albeit in fairly small numbers thank goodness, seem to throw caution to the wind and insist on ignoring all the signs or professional advice and charge forward without thought of the risk they bring to themselves and others," Danielsen wrote in an email. "It is ironic that our safety lies in staying apart from each other when we need each other the most, and I hope those careless few will finally come to understand that."

Danielsen said the ongoing pandemic is keeping her extremely busy.

"I've never had to manage this extraordinary volume of email before," she wrote. "Most of it is related to emergency planning, or responses to our media outlets, but some of it is from residents who need information and assurances. Fear is among us and we all have to fight to stay strong and positive to the greatest extent possible. Some people dwell on the numbers that cannot be avoided wherever they look and the numbers often simply increase the fear of this invisible menace."

Danielsen said she's proud of the way community leaders and first responders are pulling together to handle the unprecedented situation.

"I've taken training to manage emergencies and had no small amount of experience living in a small community faced with raging forest fires or floods, but this situation comes with so many unknowns, and it's difficult," she wrote. "I am so proud of our collective leadership group and even more of our emergency responders and health professionals. The skills that we have available here are extraordinary and we tap those resources to the greatest extent possible."

Like anyone, the warden said she has some tough days amid the ongoing public health crisis.

"Living alone has its moments," Danielsen wrote. "I'm not putting anyone at risk with my coming and going, and do as much work as I can from home although I'm still attending county emergency control group meetings in person for now. I'm well equipped with technology and prepared to the greatest extent possible for the days to come. But I also have moments of uncertainty and, like everyone else, even fear that needs to be fought off. I have a job to do and will continue to the best of my ability to help to keep everyone in this beautiful place we call home safe."



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# Boston Marathon waits for COVID-19

DARREN LUM

*Staff Reporter*

When it comes to public events and gatherings, the coronavirus has halted everything from going to the bar to buy a drink to watching hockey player Auston Matthews score on a one-timer. Among

those highly anticipated events to be postponed: the Boston Marathon.

Haliburton resident Sue Shikaze had hoped to participate in this year's event on April 20, after qualifying for the 124-year tradition by running in the Hamilton Marathon in 2018.

The Boston Marathon is now planned for Sept. 14.

“Like many people who got the email, I was disappointed, but at the same time you know in the grander scheme of things, it’s a run. It’s a race. It’s not critical to my existence, my health, my livelihood or anything like that and I think that everybody is paying a price in some way during this time,” Shikaze said. “I think for me to not be able to go and run a race, that’s a pretty small price to pay given the situation lots of other people are in, so I tried to keep it in perspective that way. Really, because I kind of figured it was coming. By the time they made the announcement I was just like I was glad they finally just decided.”

Shikaze said she recognizes she is not an Olympian, but compared her situation to what the Canadian athletes were experiencing regarding the summer Olympics in Tokyo.

"It would have been hard to keep training not knowing," she said.

More than a week ago, she said, she would have started to ramp up her training, increasing the mileage she ran.

Her motivation this year was to compete in her fourth consecutive age group, 55 to 59 years, having participated in 2003, 2008 and 2015.

The decision to postpone rather than cancel the event outright recognizes its importance to Boston, the surrounding communities and the people, Shikaze said. Sporting events have been a rallying point of solidarity and solace for Americans, following past tragedies. She's hopeful the marathon could also serve this end. However she's not sure if the health crisis will have been resolved by then.

There wasn't a goal to finish the Boston marathon in any particular time, but to have the fitness to enjoy the experience and savour the feeling of unity and celebration.

"Every runner gets treated like a champion almost. No matter where you are in the pack the streets are just lined with people cheering you on so it's unique to other events that I've run. There's often spectators, but not to the same degree," she said.

Shikaze heard that almost 250,000 people line the streets to cheer on the runners.

"That doesn't surprise me. Especially when you go through the towns because it goes through all the different towns outside Boston. You know peo-



Sue Shikaze of Haliburton runs down the road close to her home on Gelert Road in Haliburton./DARREN LUM Staff

ple are there in their pickup trucks and they've got these tailgate parties and barbecues. You can tell that they were just installed for the day to watch people and cheer them on. There will be kids giving out oranges and sponges and water and snacks and stuff. I think all the people in Boston and the towns really treat it as a big event as well. You know it's a loss for runners, but it's also a loss for all of the towns that get lots of economic activity from all the people coming in to watch and spectate. It's a really big event for the towns themselves and for the city of Boston also."

Whether or not the Boston Marathon goes ahead or how the next few weeks unfold, Shikaze finds comfort in doing the thing that she loves.

"There is a new normal for sure, but it's nice to have some normal things you can do. For me running has always been one of those things. It's a grounding thing for me to be able to do and feel like 'OK this is something I always do and something I'm still doing.' So, I'm glad to be able to do that," she said.

*Crossword brought to you by*

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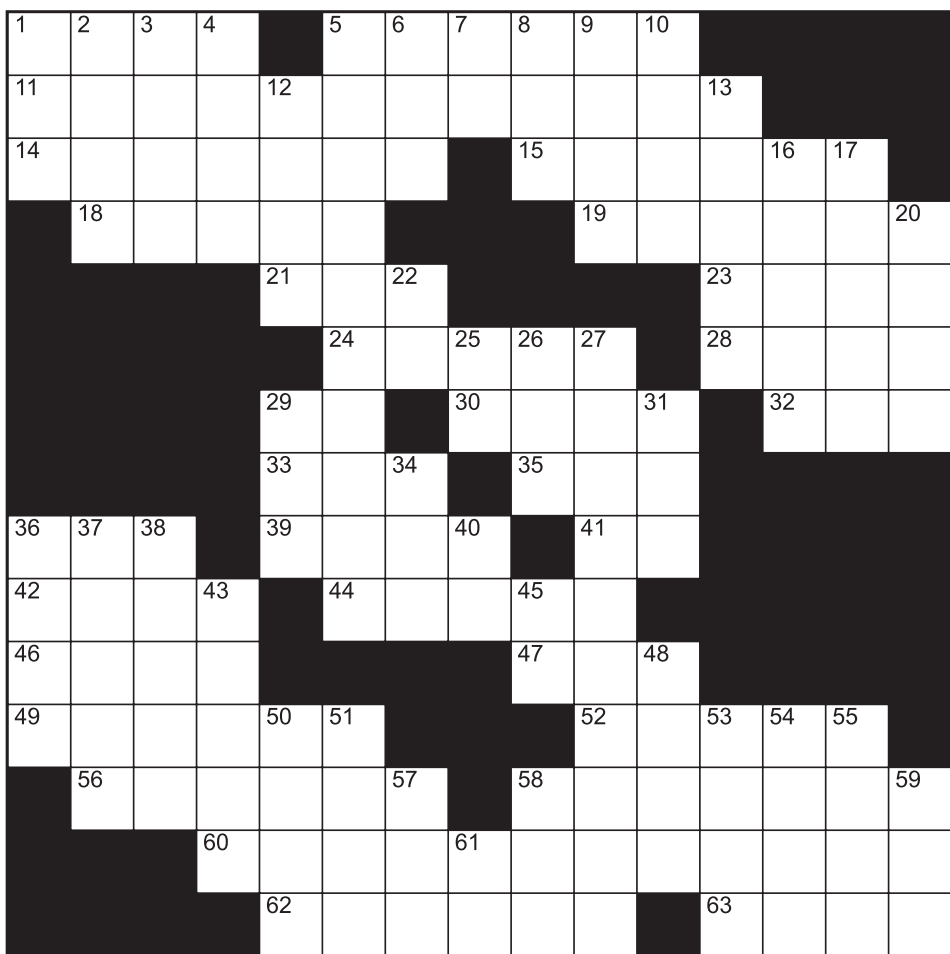
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1. Expression of sorrow  
 or pity  
 5. Not bad  
 11. NYC Mayor  
 14. Essays  
 15. Walk lightly  
 18. Those who utilize  
 19. Actress Judd  
 21. One-time community  
 of nations  
 23. Norwegian river  
 24. Unconscious states  
 28. Make muddy  
 29. Unit of volume  
 30. Consciousnesses  
 32. Envision  
 33. When you aim to get  
 there  
 35. Electronic data pro-  
 cessing  
 36. Passports are some  
 39. Snakelike fish  
 41. Military flyers (abbr.)  
 42. Popular computers  
 44. Ecological stage  
 46. Wings

47. Used in combination

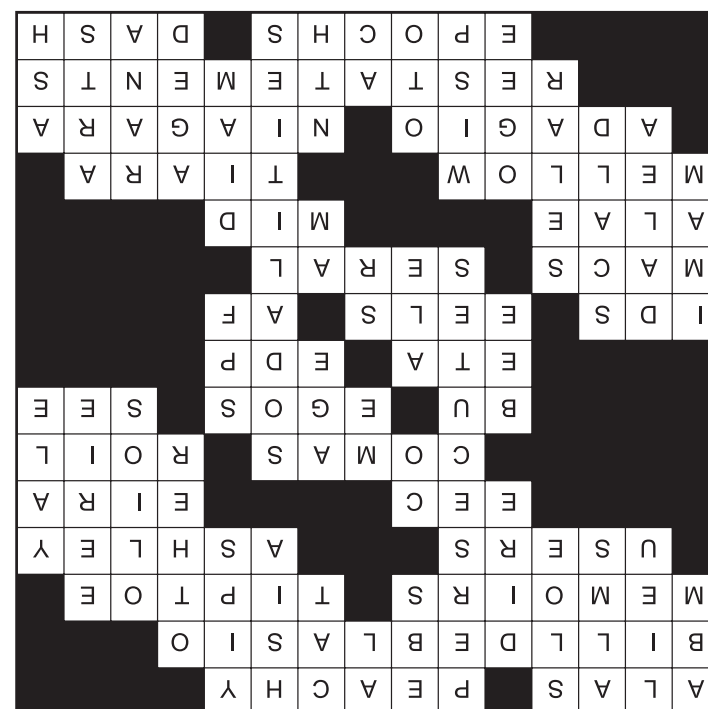
49. Laid back  
52. Princess's headgear  
56. Musical composition  
58. Famed Falls  
60. Reiterations  
62. Eras  
63. Track event
- CLUES DOWN
1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)  
2. Instead  
3. Gifts for the poor  
4. A type of gin  
5. Torments  
6. One point south of due east  
7. Actor Pacino  
8. Feline  
9. Chinese dynasty  
10. Short cries for help  
12. Straits can sometimes be this  
13. Further  
16. Variety shows  
17. Supernatural

20. A university in Con-

- necticut  
22. Atomic #27  
25. Of I  
26. We all have one  
27. Religious guilds  
29. This can sting  
31. Sunscreen rating  
34. Brew  
36. Religious leader  
37. Indigo bush  
38. Burn with a hot liquid  
40. Jr.'s father  
43. Ray-finned fish genus  
45. Morning  
48. Straight line passing  
from side to side (abbr.)  
50. S-shaped line  
51. Small bunch of hay  
53. Ripened  
54. Crater on Mars  
55. Humanities  
57. Of the ears  
58. To the \_\_\_ degree  
59. Wood  
61. Cools your home

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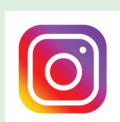
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# Haliburton homeschoolers share insight into lifestyle

As parents around Ontario learned that schools would be closed for two weeks after March Break, and then indefinitely as the province grapples with the spread of COVID-19, educational resources were shared online and some families prepared while some panicked about the idea of “homeschooling” during a global pandemic.

Members of Haliburton County’s homeschooling community shared their thoughts with the *Echo* on what their typical life looks like and what it might look like as their families are asked to stay home.

*Joleen Thomas, Carnarvon*

## Tell us about your family, and how long you’ve been homeschooling them?

We are a family of five, with various pets, that love adventuring in all weather on trails, off trails, on the water and in our yard. We’ve been homeschooling for nine years, if you follow the school years. Stuart works outside of the home and I do a little bit of Guiding and teaching lessons on the side. Stuart and I both volunteer for multiple organizations within our community as well. Otherwise, I am home full time with our children.

## What does homeschooling look like in our community?

There is a large, diverse homeschooling community here in Haliburton County. If I could make my best guess, I’d say close to 30 families. Some are homesteaders, wildschoolers, world schoolers, some are (board)game schoolers, there’s unschoolers, some are classical homeschoolers, Waldorf-inspired, play-based learning, Montessori-inspired and Charlotte Mason-inspired, Christian-based schoolers, some are online schoolers, some families homeschool the early years, others the later years of public school. I can think of a family doing at least one of every style of homeschooling here. Most often families use a combination of a few styles listed. We organize field trips to museums and historical sites, art classes, day programs at Abbey Gardens, hikes, play dates, swimming lessons, gymnastics, martial arts, downhill ski days, STEM workshops, a monthly bookclub and potluck for anyone homeschooling to join. Within these groups are subgroups of like-minded families who gather for play dates, lessons, travel, dinners and other adventurous fun.

## What does a day of homeschooling typically look like in your family?

Firstly, there are no typical days for our family personally. Our days change with the seasons, and the weather! We do have some regularity with our weekly extra curricular, so our schedule revolves around that. Saving the mornings for seated work like math, writing, languages, piano, the curriculum part of our days. During the winter we tend to have quieter days at home with less programming. The bulk of our curriculum and handwork gets completed in the winter months, but we still have lots of time for outside fun: cross country and downhill skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, fort building and ice fishing. In the spring, our programming picks up again and we soak up the days of bug-free time outside biking, hiking, gardening and on paddling trips until we are inside for more “seat work” and avoiding peak bug season (May and early June). Spring also brings the extra commitments of the music festival, piano recitals, some years Conservatory exams, dance competitions out of town and dance recitals too. Summer is jam packed with summer camps, live theatre, beach days and nights, biking, paddling and camping trips, adventure racing, cottage time and visiting with friends and family.



Violet Humphries, Vega Cohrs, Finn Taylor-Bayly, Olivia Humphries, Kip Kelly, Sadie Kelly and Tristan Humphries on an outing to the Parry Sound Museum and Lookout Tower./Photo by David Taylor

But our curriculum work doesn’t always get a break in the summer like our “brick and mortar” school friends do. The fall begins with a Not-Back-To-School trip with some other families. Last year was an east coast road trip together for a few weeks. Then we have some time to settle into our new routines and enjoy the nice weather before programming begins again and our weeks are filled with new great learning opportunities and *Nutcracker* rehearsals! We are never not learning, listening or reading! We are so fortunate to be able to tackle subjects like history, geography and social studies as a family. These aren’t limited by age or textbooks.

## How will your homeschooling days be different now that we are living during a pandemic?

Our days [now] are quite different too. We are all in this together. But, we are lucky because our house is already set up and full of curriculum options, and learning opportunities. Truthfully, we are taking a few weeks off to settle into being ‘unbusy’ and regroup. We’ve got big lists of projects we’ve been waiting to tackle that have needed time to complete. And are enjoying this time to be quiet and together, despite Stuart having to continue to work. (This part hasn’t changed.) The kids call their friends and family on the phone or send messages to each other. We’ve seen friends on the trails and everyone works so hard to physically distance themselves, even using six foot sticks to remind ourselves. We have the option to take our piano, dance, yoga and fitness classes online right now but our poor internet makes even those a choice break.

## What was it like for you to see such an interest in homeschooling now that public schools in Ontario are closed?

Let’s be clear, this isn’t homeschooling for any of us. At first, it was pretty overwhelming and exciting that other people will have the opportunity to see how great it can be to spend time teaching your children at home. Give those families that contemplated homeschooling a wee peek into the possibilities. But, I really struggled and worried families would become burnt out in the first few weeks trying to do school at home with their colourful schedules and elaborate plans. Homeschooling is a lifestyle, you can’t just start it overnight. It evolves over weeks, months and years and needs a community.

## What do you want other parents to know about homeschooling?

Honestly, we’ve been given the gift of time.

The world is in crisis, everyone is stressed and feeling uncertain – trying to do school at home right now might not be the best answer. Parents feel like they need to do school at home, but truthfully, this is the perfect time to make your home a safe place. Let your children do what they’ve never had time for before. Keep a schedule around meal times, and more specific for children that need routine, but in this gift of time – let your children be children and learn what interests them. Take this time to be together, let your children explore and dive into their own interests. Do the things you’ve not had time to do before.

(Or this combination of options)

Let them blow up things in the kitchen, make meals, help with renovations, change the oil in the car, read 100 books! Get to know each other and keep home a safe place. Don’t jeopardize the parent-child relationship for the teacher-student relationship. This is a global pandemic, everyone is right here with us. Be kind to yourselves and your children, it’s uncertain times. You may want to enforce kitchen rules, otherwise you may find yourself doing a lot of dishes in a day! If your child/ren need more routine and seat work, there is an abundance of online options, but I guarantee that they’ll learn just as much by playing cards, a board game, cooking or learning a new skill with you. Take this time to live. Learning happens anywhere.

I am so curious to see how much higher the homeschooling stats will increase once schools return to normalcy! And how tight families become after spending so much time together.

*Jennifer Ramsdale, Haliburton*

“Spending time as a family together and meeting each individual child’s learning needs inspired our choice to begin homeschooling. We started with the birth of our third child six years ago. We have had challenges with balancing full-time work and children’s activities but once we started it was hard to imagine returning to the traditional school system. Homeschooling has worked beautifully for our family allowing us to spend more quality time together.

“With the addition of so many new homeschoolers in the past week, I think it is important to focus on families with a whole lot of compassion. Stressed parents cannot effectively teach stressed children. Everyone may be experiencing more anxiety during this time of uncertainty and transition. So it is important not to add the pressure of an academic emergency

to the mental and emotional load. Any new learning activities need to start by taking into account already taxed mental, emotional and physical states so as not to overwhelm families with all they could and should be doing at home. This is not the time for most of the population with school-age children to figure out how homeschooling will work best for their children.

“Instead, focusing on how to depressurize the situation and explore fun, novel, and interest-led activities online and with family is important for everyone’s health and sanity. In addition to focusing on interest-based learning and supporting families, it may also be helpful to focus on familiar routines. For example, some classes and teachers are offering online versions of the activities children were already engaged in. Even if these are not of the highest quality, the familiarity of the routine may contribute to better learning and less cognitive load for children.

Four places to start...

1. Exercise the Mind
2. Grow Skills
3. Contribute to the Home
4. Build Social Connection from Intoxicated on Life - Christian Homeschool Connection (on Facebook)”

*Susan Trovell Andress, Kawartha Lakes*

“We have been homeschooling for eight years now. It is a natural extension of ‘parenting.’ My children are in Grades 8 and 10.

“A typical day: we treat it like a work day – we set alarms to be up to do the farm chores and get ready for lessons. They travel to the store (Minden Mercantile and Feed Co. Inc.) with me to work Monday, Tuesday and Friday and we have Wednesday and Thursday at home to concentrate on the kids more. We have set times to work on each subject with a variety of bookwork, videos and internet resources as well as good old fashioned one-on-one time teaching of concepts. My son is enrolled in the Virtual Learning Centre in order to keep him in line with other high schoolers and so that applying to post secondary won’t be such a hardship when it comes time. He will have the same OSSD as everyone else.

“The store has helped them to learn about people and the world but in a safe and supervised setting and they have learned about business and how to conduct yourself in public. Hopefully this will help them in their future endeavours.

“The beauty of homeschooling: flexibility. If someone is having a rough day and cannot seem to grasp something or if I am having a difficult time settling down to desk work ... we can go and tackle a real-world project on the farm or at the store or even take the day to go hiking or an impromptu field trip (not with other people for a while). We can work with each other’s strengths and help each other develop areas of weakness. We love homeschooling but it is not for everyone. It takes discipline and respect for each other.

“COVID-19 had affected us because our physical social needs have been curtailed. It has given us a new subject to discover: human needs and what ‘normal’ should look like.

“Homeschooling is not about isolation; it is about teaching and passing on your morals and your education, one-on-one to children who might not appreciate the congestion and lack of attention of a public school setting.”

For more information, visit [ontariohomeschool.org/homeschooling-during-school-closures-is-it-though](http://ontariohomeschool.org/homeschooling-during-school-closures-is-it-though).



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The Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) currently has exciting opportunities available for energetic individuals to join our team!

### Registered Nurses

Candidates are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The RN is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable.

The successful candidate will possess a current triage course certification, Coronary Care 1, and current ACLS are required to work in the Emergency Department. Candidates that lack advanced certification in Coronary Care 2 and Emergency Nursing 1 and 2 may be hired with the requirement to independently attain these qualifications within 6 months-2 years of hire, depending on the certification, in order to work in all areas.

Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Recent experience is preferred.

### Registered Practical Nurses

Provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a clients condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable.

RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS, with regular and consistent participation of CNO's quality assurance and reflective practice program. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to read, write and communicate effectively in English. Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work well with patients/family, staff, physicians and the community are critical. Added Nursing skills for RPN's In addition, the successful candidate must be available to work day, evening and night shifts, along with weekends and statutory holidays. A commitment to attend work on a consistent basis is also a requirement.

### Personal Support Workers

Provides resident care in relation to activities of daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable.

Candidates must have successfully completed a Personal Support Worker program that meets one of the following: The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, he standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association and is at least 600 hours in length. Experience in working with the acutely or chronically ill and/or palliative clients preferred, understanding of MDS RAI is an asset, good problem solver, organizing your own work, excellent recording and reporting skills, personal care skills, ability to read, write and communicate effectively in English, CPR Preferred.

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### Employment Opportunity Municipality of Dysart et al

#### Environmental Manager

Reporting to the Director of Public Works, the Environmental Manager oversees the daily activities of the five active municipal landfill sites. Key areas of responsibility include but are not limited to supervising municipal and contracted staff, investigating and resolving disputes, ensuring environmental compliance in accordance with provincial regulations and completing all reports as required including the annual Datacall.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work in indoor and outdoor environments with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario 'G' drivers licence with acceptable abstract is required along with certification (or willingness to obtain) from the Solid Waste Association of North America (Ontario Chapter) in Manger of Landfill Operations, Household Hazardous Waste or Transfer Station Management. The normal working hours are 8:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday with occasional weekend work required for special events.

A detailed job description is available on the municipal website [www.dysartetal.ca](http://www.dysartetal.ca).

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Laurie Salvatori, Deputy Clerk  
lsalvatori@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 12:00 pm Tuesday, April 28th, 2020.

**\*\* Interviews will commence once the municipal office is reopened to the public and the Municipality has lifted its State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic\*\***



Municipality of Dysart et al  
135 Maple Avenue,  
P.O. Box 389  
Haliburton, ON. K0M 1S0  
Telephone: 705-457-1740 Fax: 705.457.1946  
Email: info@dysartetal.ca Website: www.dysartetal.ca

### Employment Opportunity Municipality of Dysart et al

#### Roads Department Seasonal Employees

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicants will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools and equipment required for the general maintenance of roads during summer months. Primary duties include, but are not limited to, traffic control, pothole patching and spray patching. Previous road maintenance and/or construction experience is considered an asset.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'G' licence is required along with an acceptable abstract. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is \$22.25 per hour based on a 40-hour work week.

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Cheryl Coulson, Clerk  
ccoulson@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 12:00 pm Friday, April 17th, 2020.

**\*\* Interviews will commence once the municipal office is reopened to the public and the Municipality has lifted its State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic\*\***



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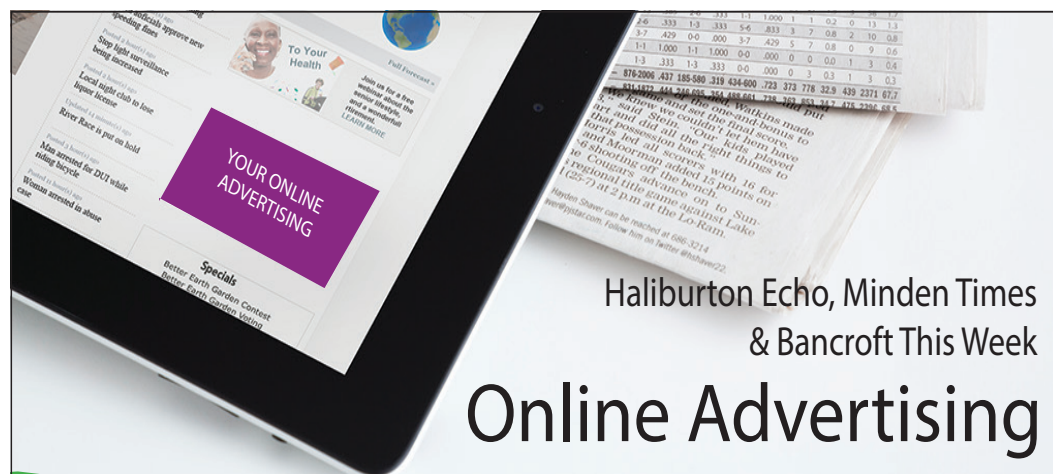
Proud Parents:  
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Great-Grandma:  
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### Molly Cowen (nee Luke)



*On Tuesday, March 31st, 2020, the angels embraced our Mum, and took her home.*

She lives in the hearts of her daughters, Brenda Cowen and Linda Lauchlan, her grandson, Benjamin Cowen and her sisters, Sally Laing and Anne Luke. She was predeceased by her husband, Bruce Cowen, her son, William Cowen, her parents Tom Luke and Jean (nee Holmes) Luke and brother Thomas Luke Jr.

Mum was in her 90th year. She was born in Northern Ireland and her family immigrated to Canada when she was 8 years old. Following her marriage in 1954, she lived in Haliburton, Hagersville, Blenheim and Simcoe and enjoyed the friendship and love of many people during her life. She was a woman of great integrity and honesty and loved to laugh. She will be greatly missed.

A Private Family Service was held on Friday, April 3rd, 2020. Interment followed in Pardoville Cemetery, Chatham-Kent. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Whispering Hearts Horse Rescue Centre, Hagersville, or a charity of your choice would be appreciated. Online condolences may be left at [www.mckinlayfuneralhome.com](http://www.mckinlayfuneralhome.com).

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Echo



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Champions! ... see page 6



Victory! ... see page 7

# THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 103

No. 27

Wednesday, April 10, 1985

'Voice of the Highlands'

18 pages

40 cents

## Bantams, Juveniles win titles

Teams celebrate victory with parade through communities

Sunday was a memorable day in the history of local hockey as the Haliburton OMHA Bantam Huskies and the Minden Juvenile Monarchs skated and scored their way to the all-Ontario championship in their respective divisions.

Haliburton's win came in Teeswater on Sunday afternoon in game six of the best of seven series, advantage despite trailing 3 - 2 in the series. They had the support of home town fans, and carried momentum from a Friday night victory at the Dysart arena, a contest that local hockey fans had hoped would

be the final one for the Huskies. Haliburton players were determined to avenge the loss, however, and they came out better organized than they had been on Friday.

Neither side scored in the first period, but in the second Teeswater notched two quick markers that put pressure on the Huskies. Late in the period Scott Russell got Haliburton on the board with help from Erin Nicholls and Jeff Warburton.

Teeswater gained back their two-goal lead early in the third period, but at the mid-way point, Nicholls narrowed the gap to one.

Russell then notched the tying goal, but Teeswater netted another to make it 4 - 3. With a little over four minutes left, Russell once again tied the score to the delight of the contingent of Haliburton fans who had made the trip to Teeswater.

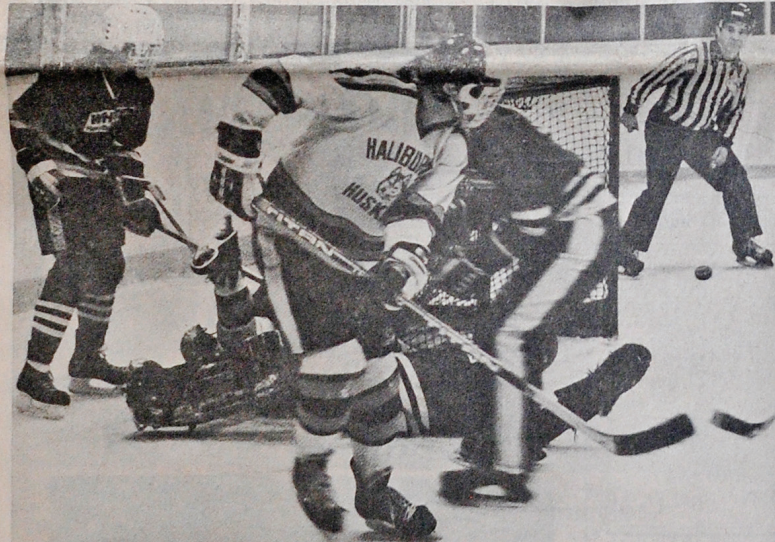
The score remained tied at the end of regulation time, forcing an overtime period. Haliburton completely dominated play in this frame despite Teeswater's superior bench numbers. Erin Nicholls got what proved to be the winner at 8:05, and insurance markers came

from Alan Rydman and Colin Hunter.

Word of the Huskies victory reached the Minden arena later that evening as the Monarchs battled Paisley in game three of the best of five series. The Minden club dominated play in the first two matches, and with a throng of home town fans behind them, they made it look easy, skating to a 7 - 2 victory and the series championship.

Lennie Johnston, Barry Boice and Jeff Howe each notched two goals in the winning effort, with Tim Woods getting the other marker for the Monarchs.

The only flaw in an otherwise entertaining game was a fight that broke out between some Minden



Haliburton's Bantam Huskies hoped to capture the all Ontario championship at home last Friday night, but it wasn't to be. Instead they had to earn the title in game six on Sunday afternoon in Teeswater with a 7-4 overtime victory. It is the first time in many years that

a Bantam team from the community has won a provincial title. The team savoured the win with the help of a Dysart fire truck when they got back to town later Sunday evening.

### Fans cheer impressive wins

fans and members of the Paisley club. It resulted in an ugly stick swinging duel but was quickly quelled by two OPP officers from Minden detachment who were in the arena at the time.

Following the game captain Jeff Howe accepted the championship trophy from a league representative and the team carried it in triumph around the arena amid the din of cheering, whistling fans.

Later the Minden club rode around the community on a Minden fire truck, its siren blaring, followed by a parade of about 30 horn blowing car loads of fans.

In Haliburton the returning Bantams also were greeted by the community fire truck, and gathered in the arena auditorium for a brief celebration. Further accolades are expected to be afforded to both teams in the coming weeks.



Minden Monarchs captain Jeff Howe accepted the all Ontario Juvenile championship trophy from OMHA official Sharon Griffin following the teams series winning 7-2 victory over Paisley at the Minden arena Sunday night.

## Zoning change approved for mobile home park

Dysart et al council has approved amendments to its zoning by-law which will permit a mobile home park development near Lochlin.

The 76 lot park will be developed on land owned by Rex Boice on the west side of County Road 1 just north of the hamlet. The land, currently zoned 'Rural', is vacant and was formerly used for farming.

Council approval for the amendments came on Monday, and follows a public meeting last Wednesday night at which ratepayers in the immediate area had an opportunity to voice their concerns.

No objections to mobile home park development were received, but several ratepayers had questions about a proposed rezoning of lands on the east side of County Road 1 also owned by Rex Boice. The amendments would change the zoning designation from Rural to Highway Commercial and Open Space to permit the establishment of a vehicle agency for mobile homes and a neighbourhood store.

Ratepayers present at the meeting were not opposed to the agency and store concept, but were worried

that rezoning to Highway Commercial would open the door to a variety of other commercial uses.

As a compromise, the Dysart planning committee suggested that a control be placed on the development agreement stating that if the proposed mobile home park did not proceed beyond the level of 30 percent capacity, the highway commercial zoning on the lands opposite must revert back to the Rural designation. The agreement would permit the vehicle agency, a community store, a craft shop and a retail gasoline facility, but if any other commercial use is proposed, a public meeting will be called to give neighbouring property owners a chance to comment.

The public has a further 35 days from this past Monday to object to the proposed rezoning. If no objections are received, it will then become official. If there are objections which cannot be resolved the proposed rezoning would have to be considered at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

## Official Plan amended

Dysart councillors have approved an amendment to the municipality's Official Plan which will regulate the development of mobile home parks within the nine townships.

The amendment, the 12th since the Official Plan was put in place, was drafted on council's behalf by Planco Consultants. It was approved by council on Monday, and will now be passed on to the provincial housing ministry for comment before it becomes official.

Policies outlined in the amendment are:

All development proposals shall include a site plan which shows park design, lot size, road layout and

surfacing, drainage, parking, topography, existing landscaping, walkways, buffering and common facilities;

Water supply and sewage disposal systems shall be designed and constructed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of the Environment;

The proposed park shall be designed so as to preserve natural features and existing vegetation, especially trees, to the greatest possible extent;

The proposed site shall be compatible with adjacent land uses. An adequate open space area should be included around the perimeter of

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## Parents want small schools left open

Victoria County board is on the hot seat over consolidated schools

Parents in Kinmount, Burnt River, Norland, Cobocok and Kirkfield took their case against school consolidation to the Victoria County Board of Education recently and won an assurance that trustees would keep the citizens' concerns in mind.

More than 60 parents from the five communities attended the March 27 meeting to argue against the board's plans to phase out all five schools and replace them with two new facilities in the northern part of Victoria County. The board has asked the province to provide funds for construction but as yet a final decision on the request has not been made.

The board spent two years studying the issue before voting in favour of closing down the five small schools and building two new ones. But parents have resisted the scheme from the outset, and recently organized a 'Save Our

Schools' committee to lobby against school closures.

Municipal councils in the area also have taken an active position, registering their disapproval of the board's plans.

Sommerville Township councillor

dated schools would result in higher costs to the taxpayers in the long term, and would double the time that students presently spend on buses. He said the province proposes to reduce transportation grants to boards by as much as 50 percent

### Is it inevitable? ... see page 4

Clayton Cameron was the first of four people who formally addressed the board at the March 27 meeting. Speaking on behalf of council, which is concerned specifically with the Kinmount and Burnt River schools, Cameron said the facilities are essential to the present way of life in the hamlets. In the case of Burnt River, the school and community centre are all that remain of a once larger village, he said.

Cameron argued that the consoli-

over the next 10 years.

Cameron said none of the five schools slated for closure is at maximum capacity and none is in a state of disrepair. He urged the board to reassess the situation and leave the system as it is presently.

James Webster, speaking on behalf of the 'Save Our Schools' committee, told the board that 773 people had signed a petition circulated throughout the area, with 761 supporting the SOS committee's

stand, 11 opposed and one undecided. A letter also was sent by the committee to parents of students and future students with similar results. Some 140 people supported the committee, 12 were opposed and 12 were undecided, Webster said.

Webster then introduced David Valentine as an educational expert who would speak on behalf of the SOS committee.

Valentine cautioned the board about the dangers of assuming that provincial grants will remain at present levels. He said the province's intention to increase support for the separate school system will cause a major reapportionment of available funds.

Valentine also refuted the argument that consolidated schools would provide better educational opportunities for area youngsters. He said the performance of gifted

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